

U.S. Patent Applicant No. 09/808,299
Amendment dated February 11, 2005
Reply to Office Action of November 22, 2004

PATENT
Attorney Docket 713-11-PA

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

This paper is submitted in response to the office action mailed November 22, 2004.

Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Claims 45-47 and 57-60 were examined. Claims 45, 46, 57, 58, and 60 stand rejected. Claims 47 and 59 have been objected to as depending from a rejected claim.

By this amendment, Claims 45-47 and 60 have been amended, claims 57-59 have been canceled, and new claim 61 has been added. As discussed below, it is respectfully submitted that claims 45-47, 60, and 61 are allowable over the art of record.

Summarizing the Office Action, claims 45, 46, 57, 58, and 60 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by FR 2,367,148. Claim 45 was further rejected as anticipated by EP 0188358. Claims 47 and 59 were objected to as depending from rejected base claims, but were held to define patentable subject matter. In addition, the Examiner held that claim 45 would be allowable if amended to include the subject matter of claim 58, and that claim 60 would be allowable if it were further amended to define each of the segments as having "a radius that varies continuously in length between each two successive discontinuities."

In response, claim 45 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of claims 57 and 58, which have been canceled. Claim 60 has been amended as suggested by the Examiner. New claim 61 has been added to present the subject matter of claim 59 in an independent claim. Claim 59 has, accordingly, been canceled.

Claims 45 and 60, having been amended as suggested by the Examiner, should now be allowable. Claims 46 and 47, which depend from claim 60, should likewise be allowable. Claim 61, which incorporates the patentable subject matter of claim 59, is also submitted to be allowable.

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It is therefore respectfully submitted that claims 45-47, 60, and 61 are allowable.
Accordingly, passage of the application to issue is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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